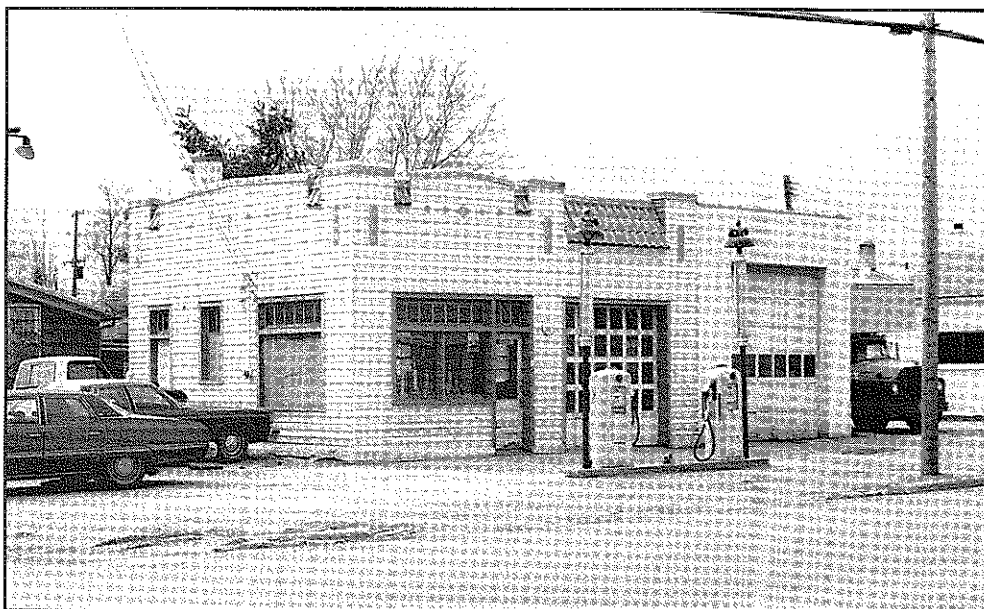


Chapter Eight

UPDATING PREVIOUS SURVEYS



Gas Station, Fowler, photographed 1979

Areas may sometimes require re-surveying because the existing data has become outdated, a higher level of survey is required (an intensive-level survey will supplant an old reconnaissance-level one), or the quality of the old survey is unreliable. Whatever the situation, past survey activity may provide information useful for the present project, including:

- Existing site-specific records (inventory cards, forms, or database records);
- Research that can contribute to the current research effort;
- Recommendations concerning eligibility;
- Districting proposals.

The new survey should build on the old one. The old thematic narratives should not be used as is, but the new survey should be seen as an opportunity to revise and expand them. The aim of a new survey should be to provide survey materials meeting current standards for all properties in the survey area that have previously been surveyed and that meet the survey criteria developed for the re-survey project. A re-survey project should generally be performed at the intensive level; it usually makes little sense to re-survey previously surveyed properties unless the survey will generate additional information. Old surveys often omitted

features of complex properties such as carriage house/stable buildings and agricultural outbuildings that would be included in current intensive level surveys; the new survey provides an opportunity to obtain complete survey data that should not be missed.

Surveyors should create a new Ruskin property record for each property, complex property, and district. Even if a Ruskin record already exists, it will probably be more efficient to create a new one. When new records are created, data from the old survey can be incorporated, if the surveyor is confident of its accuracy. New photo-images should be made, and new maps must be prepared. Earlier thematic research should be integrated with new research and a new report prepared that includes all the standard components outlined in the **SURVEY PRODUCTS** chapter, including inventory forms, photo-images, and mapping. The new survey report should include the standard products for all previously as well as newly surveyed properties within the re-survey area. Anything less will require the user of the data looking for information on properties in the survey area to search two separate reports and render the re-survey project less useful than it should and could be.